

How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts?

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:7-12

1. Youth has never been an easy time in a person's life.
2. It is a time of rapid change, experimentation, searching, and having fun, yet it also brings with it despair, heartaches, and troubles.
3. The good news is that God can help young people through their youth. He can help the young **make the right decisions, avoiding despair.**

Psalms119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

- A. The cleansing involves avoiding sin and the pursuit of holiness.
4. To secure the heart is to free it from fear, worry and danger. It is to make it assured, certain, and protected.
5. This afternoon, let's look at several areas in which the young need to secure their hearts, protecting it from harm.

Keeping Our Priorities Straight

1. Lance (baseball team). What should he do?
2. Kathy (first chair in the clarinet section). What to do?
3. These situations are common today.
 - A. For some young people the decision is no problem.
 - B. For the Christian, it is a problem because of priority.
4. The key to finding the answer to these dilemmas is keeping our priorities straight.
 - A. What is the purpose of life? Why are we here?

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **fear God and keep His commandments**, for this is man's all.

5. While God wants us to enjoy life, we are here first of all to worship and serve Him.
Matthew 6:33
 - A. **"These things"** involve the necessities of life (food, clothing, shelter). If he expects us to put Him first, before these, what do you think He would expect from life's social affairs?
6. We can not only absent ourselves from the services, but also from Bible study, good works, helping others).
7. Let's not be guilty of being "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:4).

The Consequences of Sin

1. Sin has its consequences! Sin has a way of coming back to haunt us.
2. The most important consequence of sin is that it separates us from God and will cause us to be lost.

Isaiah 59:2 But **your iniquities have separated you from your God**; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

Ezekiel 18:4 "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; **the soul who sins shall die**.

Romans 6:23 For **the wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

8. Sin can be and will be forgiven when we meet God's conditions of salvation, however,
 - A. There may be some consequences of sin that you may have to live with the rest of your life.
 - 1) Moses (Struck Rock - Can't enter land)
 - 2) David (Adultery - child died, family tragedy).
 - B. May be forgiven of stealing, but may have to serve time in prison and/or deal with having an unfavorable police file - keeping you from being able to secure certain jobs in life.
 - C. May be forgiven for getting drunk, but will have to live with the remembrance of your best friend killed in the car you were driving.

Galatians 6:7-8

Romans 2:6 who "will render to each one **according to his deeds**":

Numbers 32:23 "...and **be sure your sin will find you out**."

Our Influence

1. **Everyone of us has influence. For good or for bad.**
2. **The older have a big influence on the younger.**
3. **Influence:** “power to produce effects on other people.”

Romans 14:7 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.

4. **Paul wrote to young Timothy asking him to be a good influence before others.**

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but **be an example** to the believers in **word**, in **conduct**, in **love**, in **spirit**, in **faith**, in **purity**.

- A. **Word** - speech, conversation
- B. **Conduct** - manner of life
- C. **Love** - having a good attitude toward others
- D. **Spirit** - zeal, enthusiasm in God’s service
- E. **Faith** - full commitment to the Lord
- F. **Purity** - abstaining from immorality

5. **What is your life saying to others?**

Proverbs 22:1

Matthew 5:16

Philippians 2:15-16

- A. **Don’t tarnish your life!**
- B. **There may be a little boy or girl following you!**

Invitation

Place

Date

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